

Queen Fixes Tax To Help Britain

Our Lawmakers Might Glean Some Ideas From Ruler Of Basutoland.

WASHINGTON. — American lawmakers, harried by problems of how to increase taxes and when to collect them, might glean some ideas from Basutoland in South Africa. Having just rounded out 75 years under British protection, Basutoland has added a war tax to aid Britain's cause to the several taxes and license fees that keep this home of 600,000 farmer-tribesmen free of national debt. The new tax was levied by decree of Mantsebo, the paramount chieftainship of the territory's many tribes.

Half as large as West Virginia, Basutoland is much more mountainous, says a National Geographic society bulletin. Although geographically within the Union of South Africa, its affairs are administered not by the Union of South Africa but by a separate British commission responsible also for neighboring Swaziland and Bechuanaland.

A practical example of home rule under British protection, Basutoland is a territory where white men may not own land. There is no industry of importance other than farming and stock raising. Much of the agriculture is carried on common land allotted to workers by tribal chiefs. Basutoland fell short of balancing its budget in 1941 for the first time in many years. But built-up reserves were then equal to half a year's expenses of government and kept the territory safely "in the black."

Wives No. 2 and 3 Taxed.

Basutoland taxes every adult male native. If a man has more than one wife, he must annually pay 25 shillings each on wives No. 2 and No. 3, but wives No. 4 and up are tax free.

The 1943 war levy, recognizing different abilities to pay, starts at 10 shillings for ordinary mortals and scales up to 100 shillings for tribal chiefs.

Maize, wheat, and Kaffir-corn are staple foods raised and consumed by the Basutos. Two million sheep and goats and 500,000 cattle, herded on steep mountain pasture land, contribute wool, leather and dairy products to South Africa's export volume, giving Basutoland welcome revenue from its tiny share of the customs duties annually collected by the Union of South Africa.

A plateau land of little timber, high mountains and densely populated valleys, Basutoland is described by visitors as an African Switzerland. It is not easily approached. There are few roads that are more than footpaths, and a single mile of railroad. That mile is the last of 16 on a spur to the Basutoland capital, Maseru, from the Bloemfontein-Natal branch of the South African railways.

Few Whites See Falls.

Crossing the territory from this northwest entrance, the traveler sees first the grain fields and pastures at levels averaging a mile above the sea. The sky-line rises to snow-capped, two-mile-high peaks of the Drakensberg as the southeast border is approached. Maletsunyane falls, hidden in wilds that few white men have penetrated, drop 600 feet—four times the plunge of Niagara.

Formed of battle-weary tribes in 1818, Basutoland was long and ably led by Chief Moshesh, who loved peace but found war frequently forced on his people. Late in his life, in 1868, he successfully appealed to Queen Victoria for the British protection that brought substantial peace to the little land. Addressing the queen, he wrote: "My country is your blanket, O Queen, and my people are the lice in it."

Leadership of the districts and wards continues to be vested in hereditary chiefs allied to the descendants of Moshesh. History was made a little more than two years ago when Mantsebo, No. 1 wife of the deceased Paramount Chieftain Seeiso Griffith, was elevated to the office of paramount chieftainship—Basutoland's first "Madame President."

Great Britain Trains

Flying Sharpshooters

LONDON.—Flying sharpshooters are the latest offensive weapon being trained by the Army Co-operation command of Britain's Royal Air force. They are pilot-marksmen, quick-sighted and accurate enough to pick off officers in a Nazi staff car, while flying their planes at 400 miles an hour.

These dare-devil pilots, who zoom their fighter planes down to treetop level, get daily practice in England's northern countries in flying at six-mile-a-minute speeds and spotting topographical details such as shadows of trees at the edge of a wood, and the camouflage on tanks.

Mystery With an Odor

Has a \$22,500 Angle

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—The state board of agriculture has its operatives on the scent of a \$22,500 mystery. Agents are trailing cows in western Oklahoma, watching them eat. Cream from the cows' milk tastes and smells like good cream should, but when churned into butter, it develops an offensive odor. Dairymen suffered an estimated \$22,500 loss last month because of the odor.

Kentucky Farmers Learn Modern Ways

Are Amazed at Work Done By Latest Machinery.

DOYLESTOWN, PA.—The group of men in blue dungarees and wide-brimmed hats stared in amazement at a tractor chugging down a plowed field towing a mechanical potato planter.

"That contraption has planted more potatoes in the last 15 minutes than I could plant in a whole day on my farm in Kentucky," said one lanky individual when he recovered from the surprise of his first day at the National Farm school, Doylestown.

The men, all former farmers in the hills of Kentucky and West Virginia, were among hundreds undergoing training in modern farming methods before they are assigned to farms in the northeastern United States to relieve a shortage of skilled farm labor.

These descendants of American pioneers, retracing the steps of their forefathers, are overwhelmed at the benefits of working in the East.

Hardworking and deeply religious, they make willing and able workers. One Pennsylvania farmer summed it up:

"Kermit is the most satisfactory worker we ever had," he said. "We like him and he likes us. He has made a new home for his wife and three children. They arrived from Kentucky last Saturday night and it was like bringing them into a new world, into surroundings better than any they had ever known."

The farm school, which acts as a clearing house for workers brought north by the Farm Security administration, already has placed approximately 300 on Pennsylvania and New Jersey farms.

Mess Sergeant Cites

Four Ways to Save Food

RANDOLPH FIELD, TEXAS.—Here, ration-harried housewife, is a kitchen manager who can feed 500 men three substantial meals and at day's end carry all the resultant waste in one hand.

The lad with the answer to war-shortened food budgets is the typical army mess sergeant at Randolph Field. His four-point formula is simple:

1. Carefully controlled portions ladled out to diners. Everybody gets enough, but not too much.
2. Don't allow food to be left on trays.
3. Reprocess leftovers into appetizing new dishes. Untouched food left in serving pans goes into the squadron refrigerator. Cooked vegetables go into salads and stews, meat into hash, bread into puddings.
4. Salvage all useful inedibles like grease and bones for conversion into needed products. And even the few gallons of platter scrapings from more than 1,500 meals daily at a typical squadron is salvaged. It is sold to hog raisers to be converted into pork chops and breakfast bacon for American tables.

Germans Blaming Hitler

For Reverses in War

NEW YORK.—The German people have begun to blame Hitler for the failure of their armies, and for the war itself.

There is more indication to this effect than the recent reports of rioting Berliners, who stormed the war ministry for information about their kin lost in Tunisia.

Here, for instance, is a confidential order issued by Hitler's personal headquarters to the commanders of the S.S. (Nazi Elite Troops), which was smuggled to this country through reliable Austrian channels. It says: "A wave of pessimism is sweeping over the Reich due to underground propaganda. It takes the form of grumbling about the war and the heavy casualties, and often it puts the blame on the Fuehrer. These rumors are deliberately spread with revolutionary intent. Special attention is to be paid to the Austrian underground propaganda, which is directed against the unity of the Reich by furthering separatism. In all cases energetic measures are to be taken and all suspects are to be arrested at once."

He Had Just About Given

Up Getting His Laundry

WASHINGTON.—Capt. Michael Patrick O'Leary's laundry finally has been delivered. That may not sound important, but—

His laundry went out at Long Beach, Calif. It was forwarded to Hickam Field in Hawaii. Then to Cairo. Then to North Africa. Then London.

It caught up with O'Leary, army air transport command pilot, in Iceland on an exceptionally chilly day. He opened the bundle and found—summer clothes.

Tin and Razor Blade

Eater Is Sentenced

LONDON.—John Eli George Smith has four years in prison to consider activities which included eating 13 pieces of tin, two razor blades, three safety pins and some glass. A Glamorgan (Wales) Court was told his meal was designed to prevent his being brought to court. He was sentenced for robbery.

WASTE FATS COLLECTED

Waste kitchen fat collections throughout the country totaled 8,440,274 pounds during the month of June, setting an all time high mark since the inauguration of this program in July 1942, WPB has reported. The total collected is still not sufficient to meet war demands. WPB Region I, comprised of the New England states ranked first in pounds collected per occupied dwelling.

HONORABLE DISCHARGE BUTTONS

An honorable discharge from the Army during the present war will be signified by a label button, the War Department has announced. Both men and women, whether officers or enlisted personnel, will be eligible to wear the button if they hold an honorable discharge.

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